



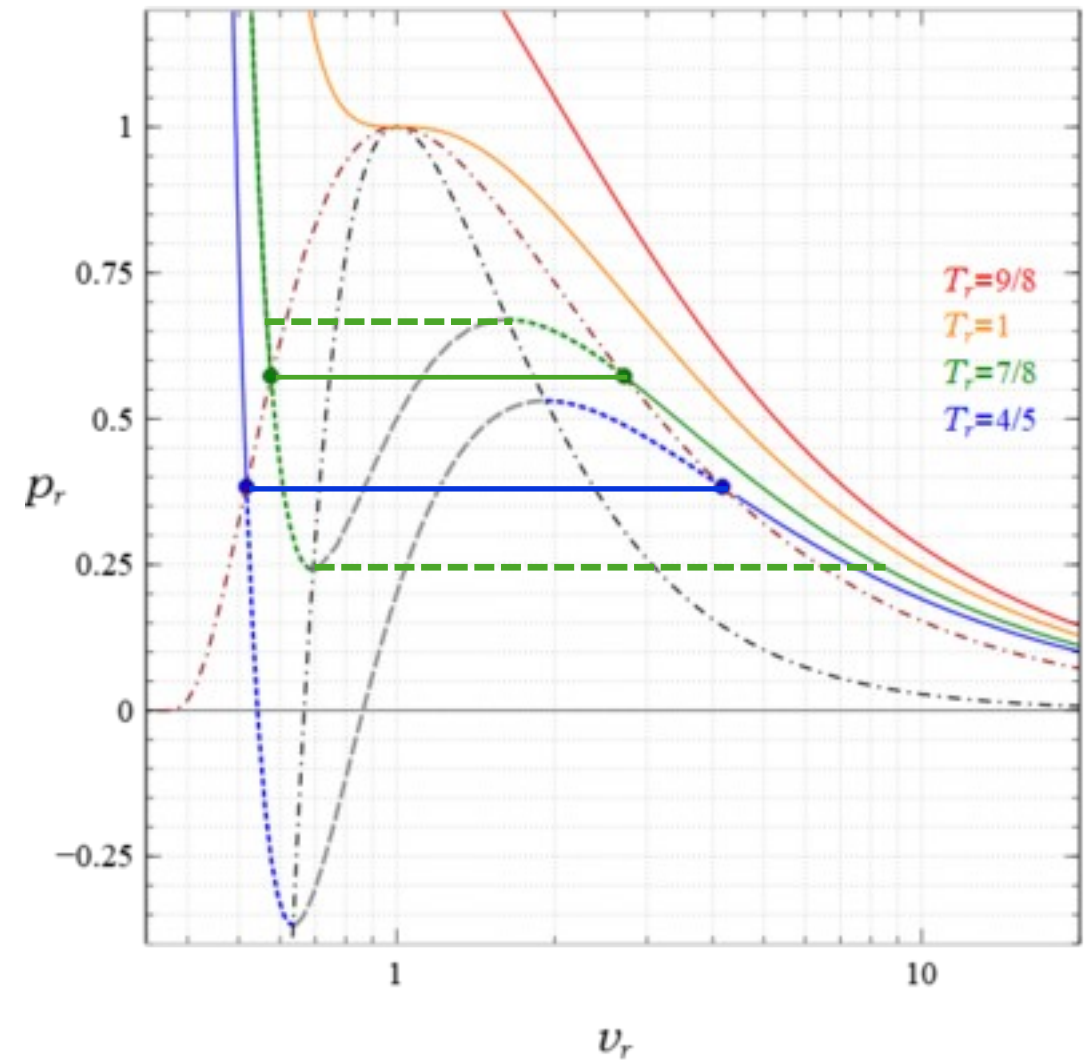
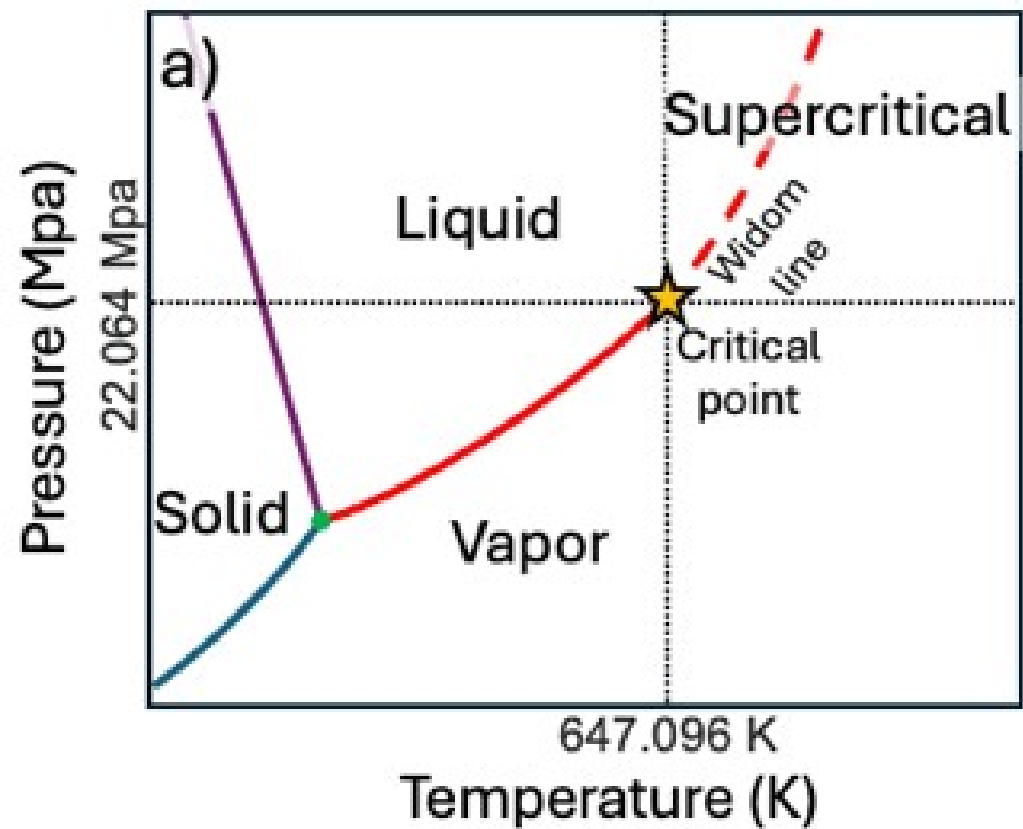
**Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara**

# Machine-Learned Interatomic Potentials as forcefields for Molecular Dynamics simulations of Nanoconfined Supercritical Water

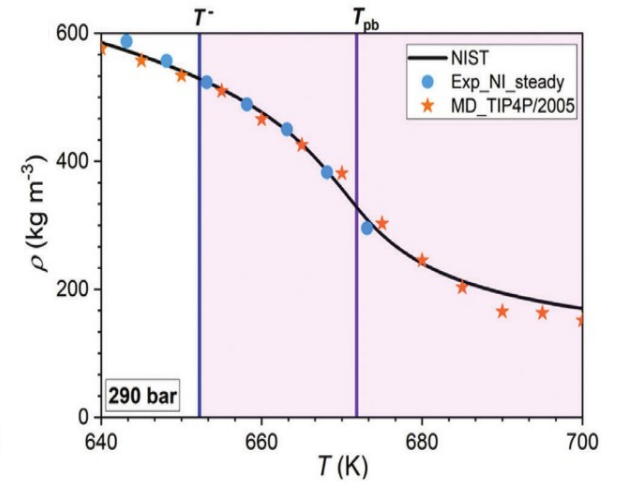
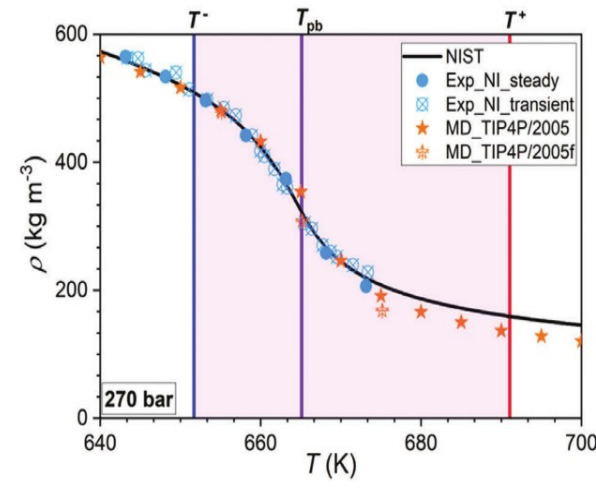
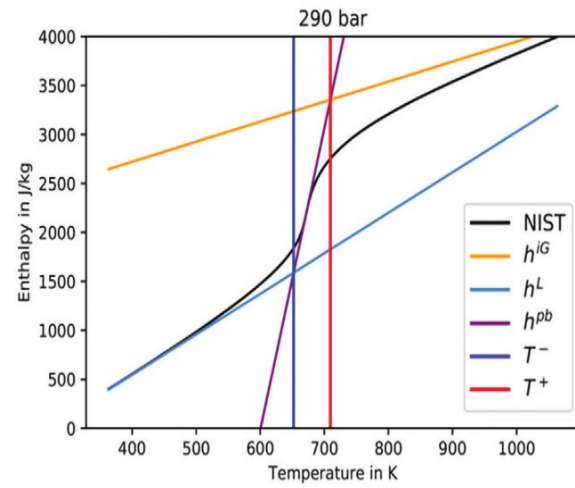
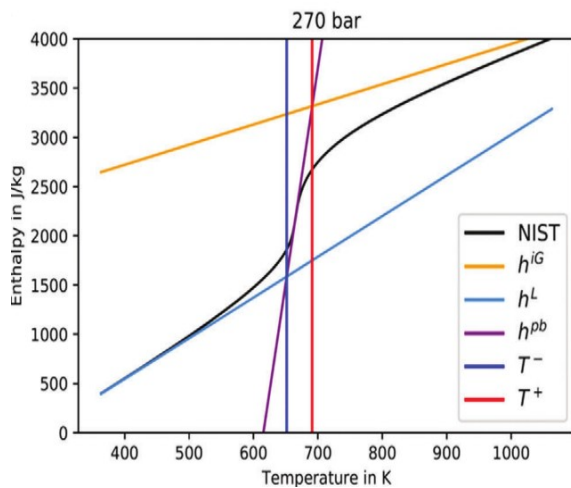
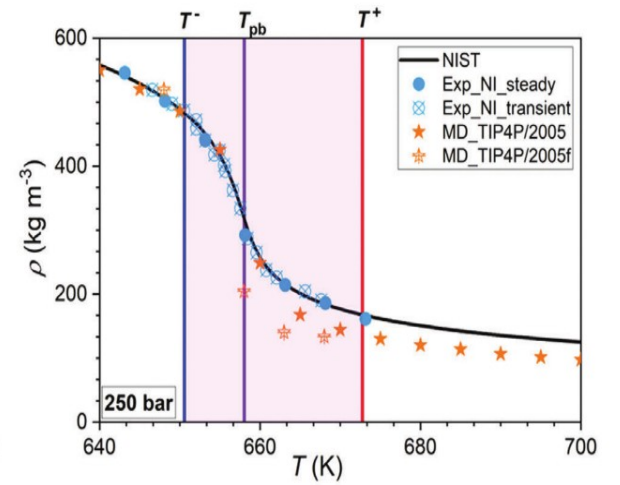
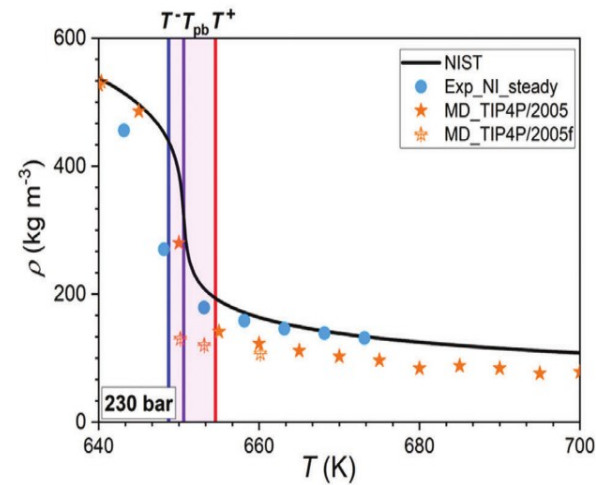
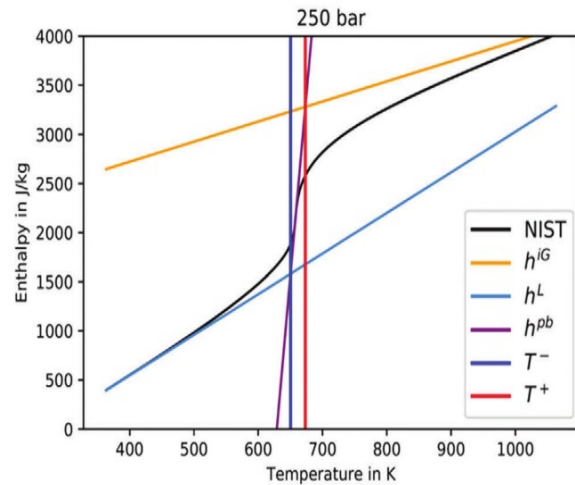
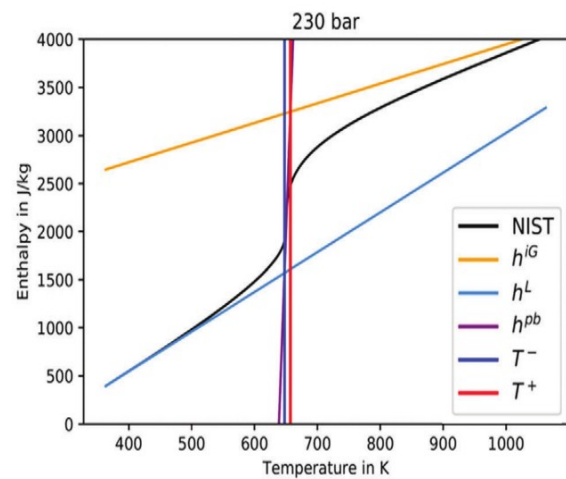
Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Chimiche  
Anno accademico 2024/2025

Candidato: Matteo Bragagnolo  
Relatore: Prof. Simone Meloni

# Phase diagram and transition of bulk water

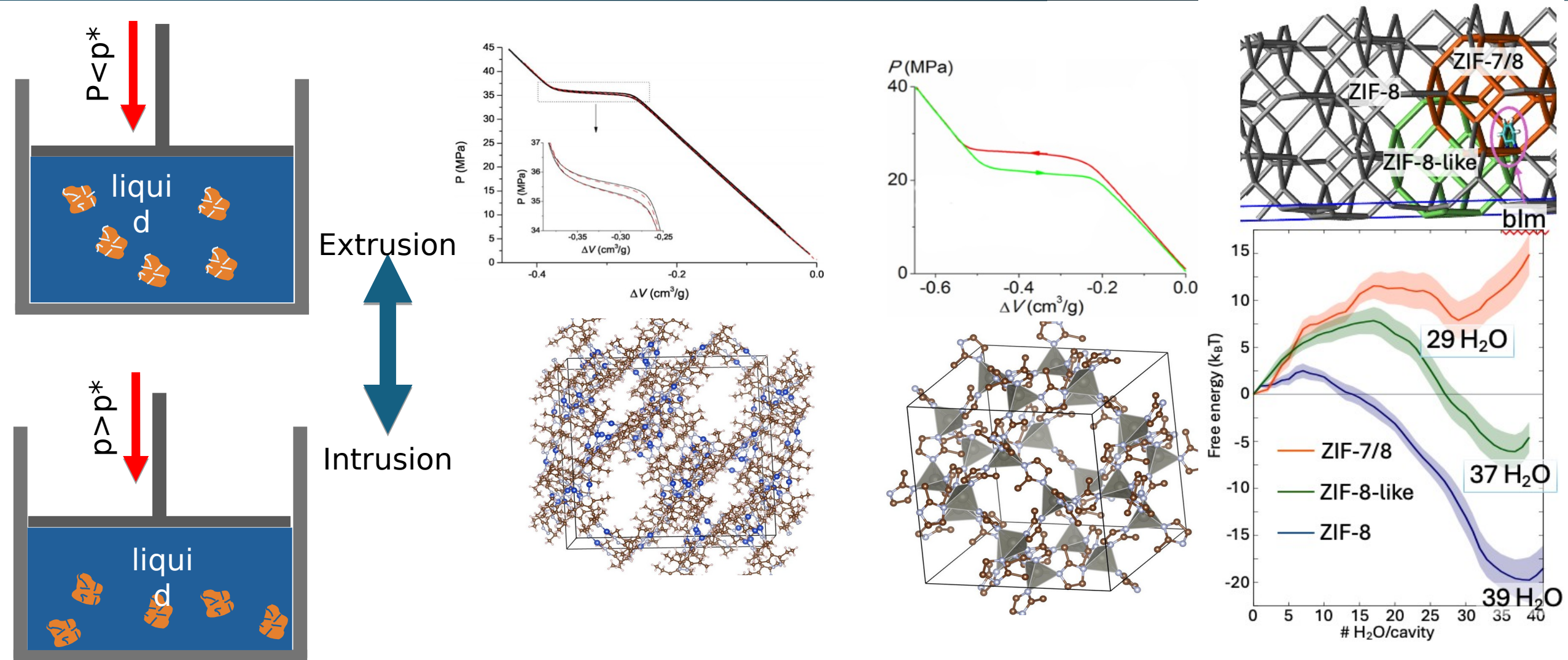


# Supercritical phase transitions

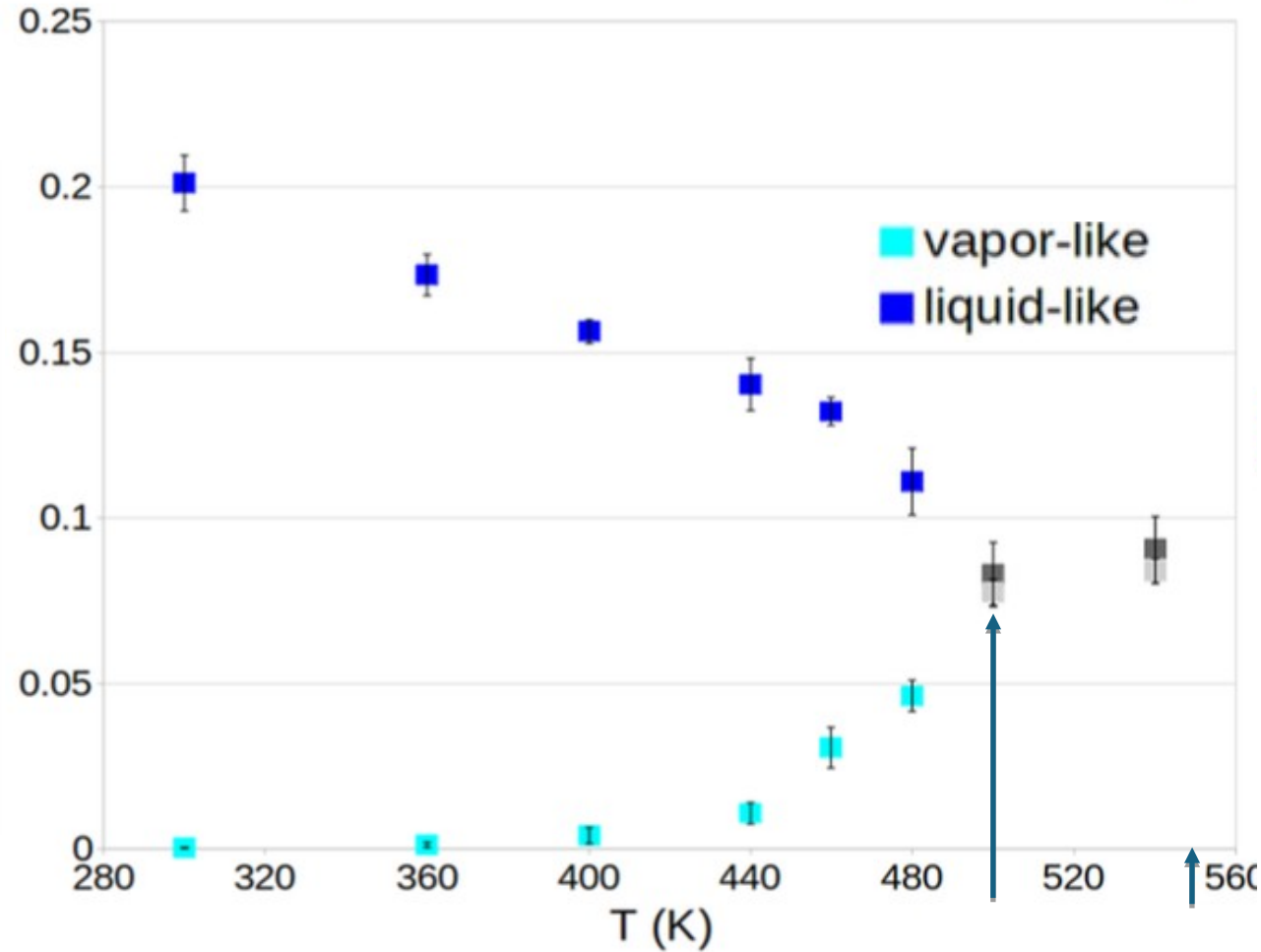
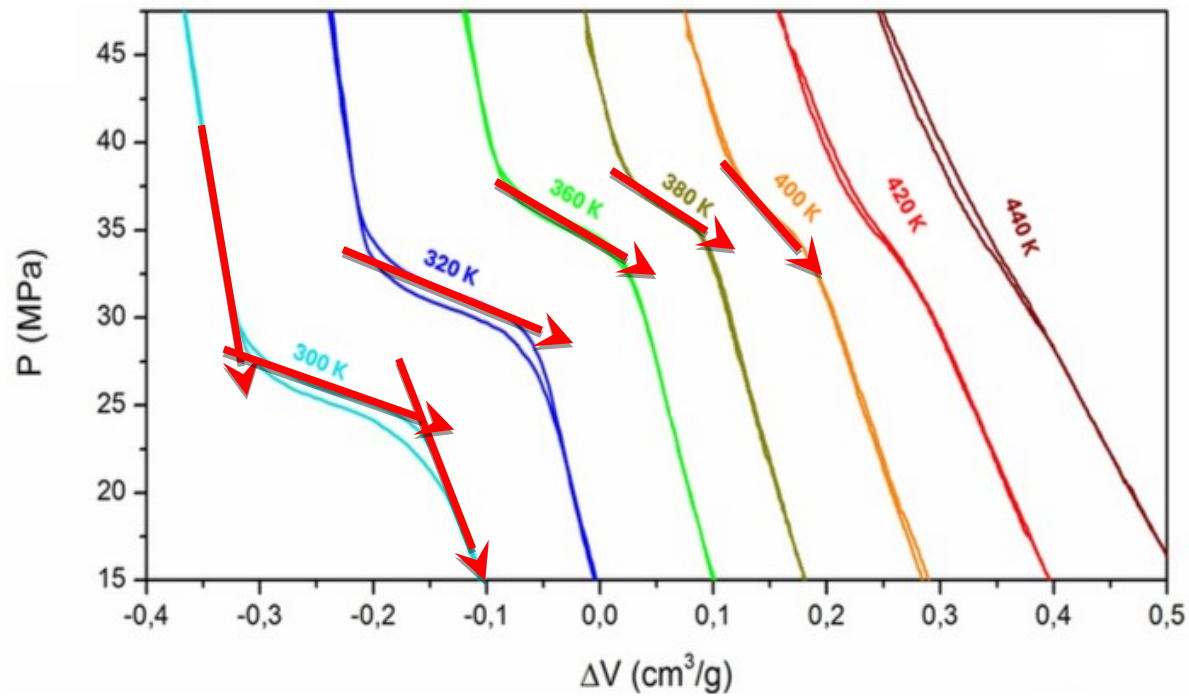




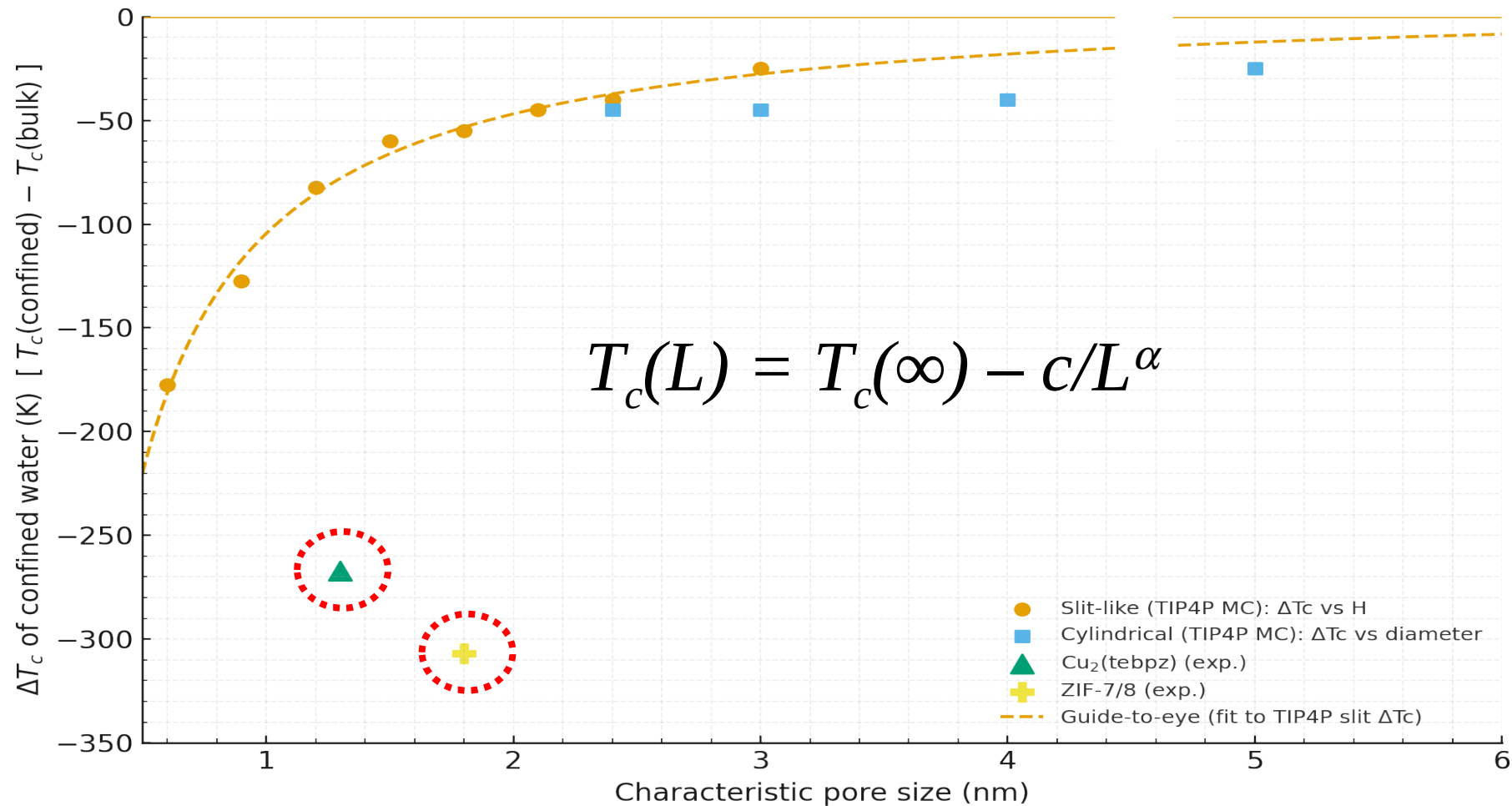
# Nanoconfinement of water: capillary condensation and evaporation



# Mild, confined supercritical water

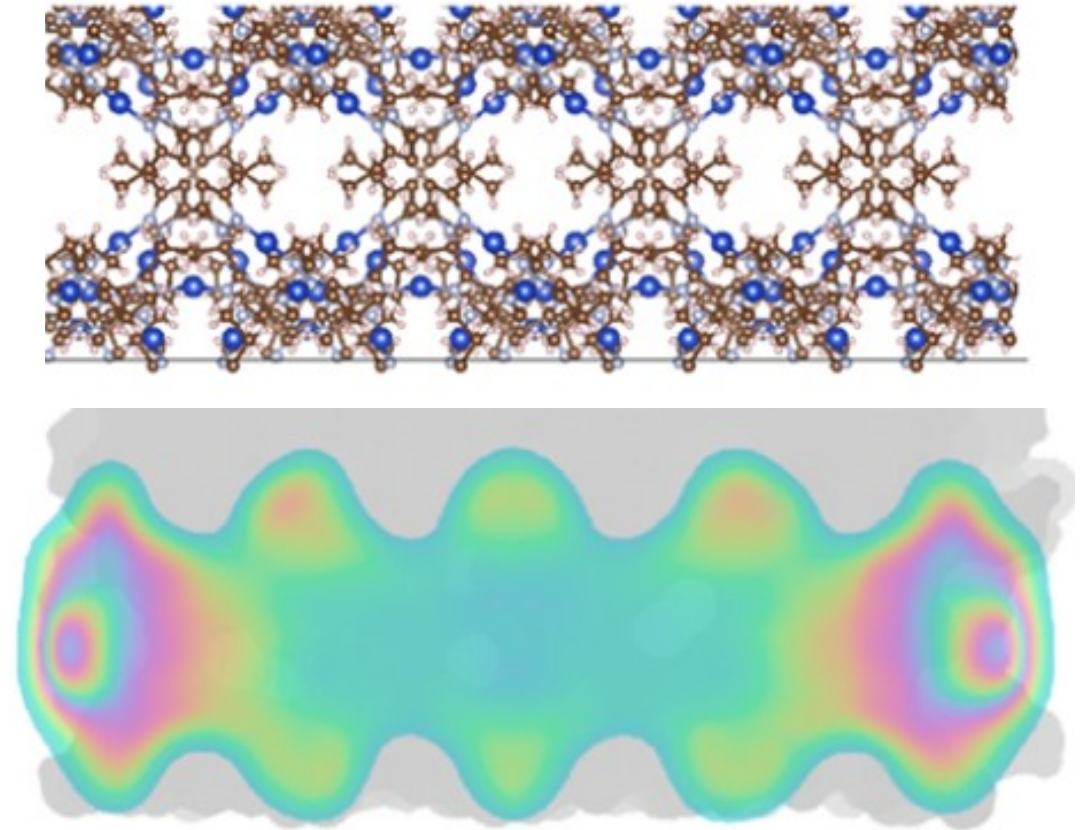
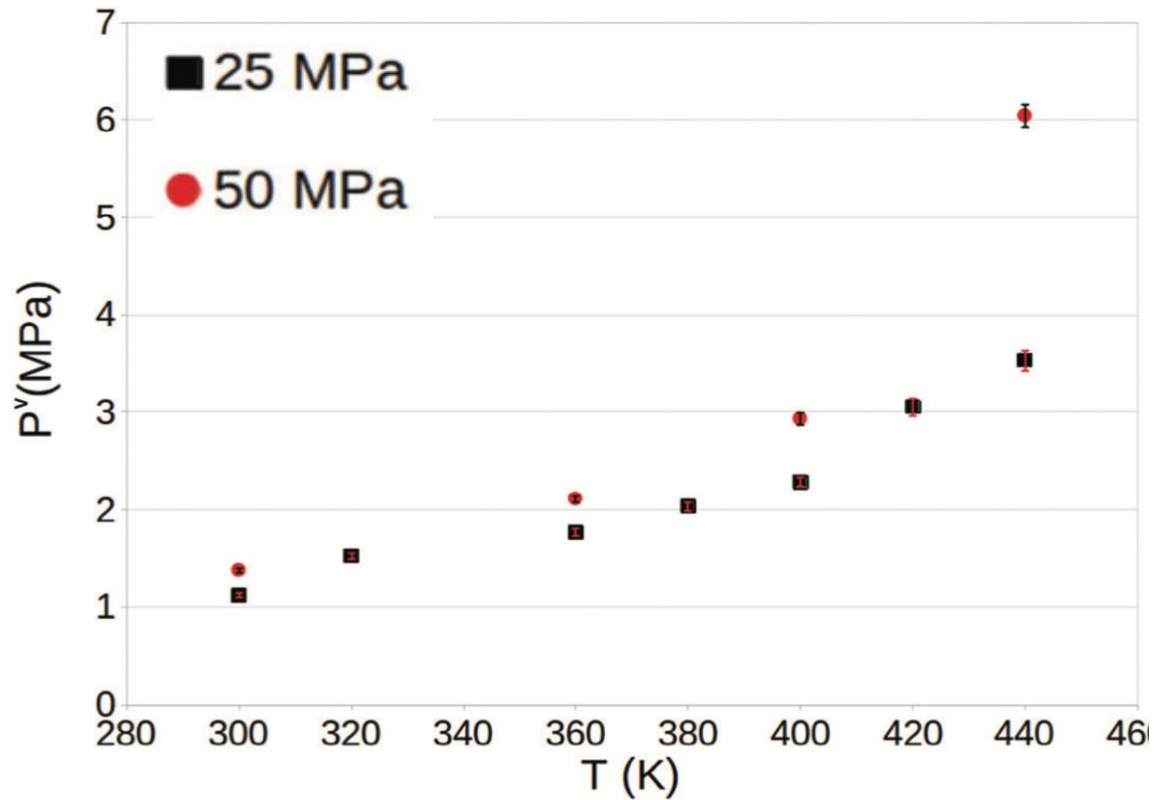


# Effect of confinement on $T_c$

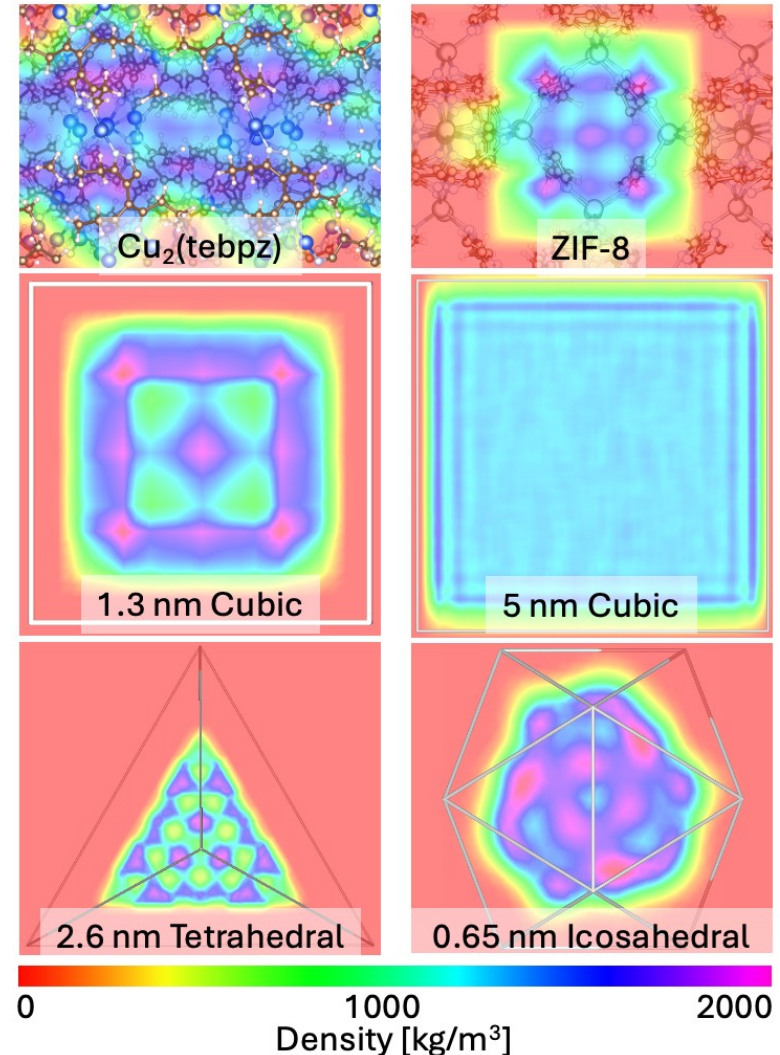
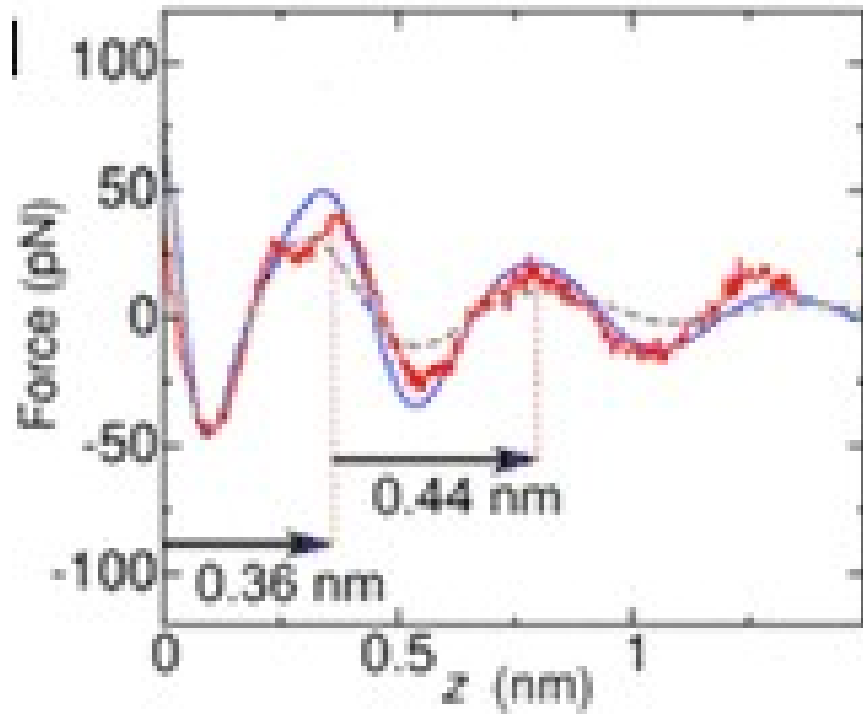




# Effect of confinement on $T_c$ : high vapor pressure



# Effect of confinement on $T_c$ : hydrophobic forces and geometrical features





# Experiments *in silico*: Molecular Dynamics

$$\langle A \rangle = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau A(t) dt \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M A(t_i)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{MTTK}} = \sum_i \frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2}{2m_i} + V(\mathbf{q}) + \frac{p_\xi^2}{2Q} + gk_B T \xi + \frac{p_\eta^2}{2W} + 3Nk_B T \eta + P_{\text{ext}} V$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}}_i = \frac{\mathbf{p}_i}{m_i} + \eta \mathbf{q}_i$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}_i = -\nabla_{\mathbf{q}_i} V - (\xi + \eta) \mathbf{p}_i$$

$$\dot{V} = 3V\eta$$

$$\dot{\eta} = \frac{1}{W} (P - P_{\text{ext}})$$

$$\dot{\xi} = \frac{1}{Q} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2}{m_i} - 3Nk_B T \right)$$

# Interatomic potentials from electronic structures

**Hellmann-Feynman theorem:**

$$\mathbf{F}_A = -\frac{\partial E(\{\mathbf{R}_A\})}{\partial \mathbf{R}_A} = -\left\langle \Psi \left| \frac{\partial \hat{H}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_A} \right| \Psi \right\rangle$$

$$\hat{H}(\{\mathbf{r}_i\}; \{\mathbf{R}_A\}) \Psi(\{\mathbf{r}_i\}; \{\mathbf{R}_A\}) = E(\{\mathbf{R}_A\}) \Psi(\{\mathbf{r}_i\}; \{\mathbf{R}_A\})$$

$$\hat{H} = -\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i < j} \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} + \sum_i V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}_i; \{\mathbf{R}_A\})$$

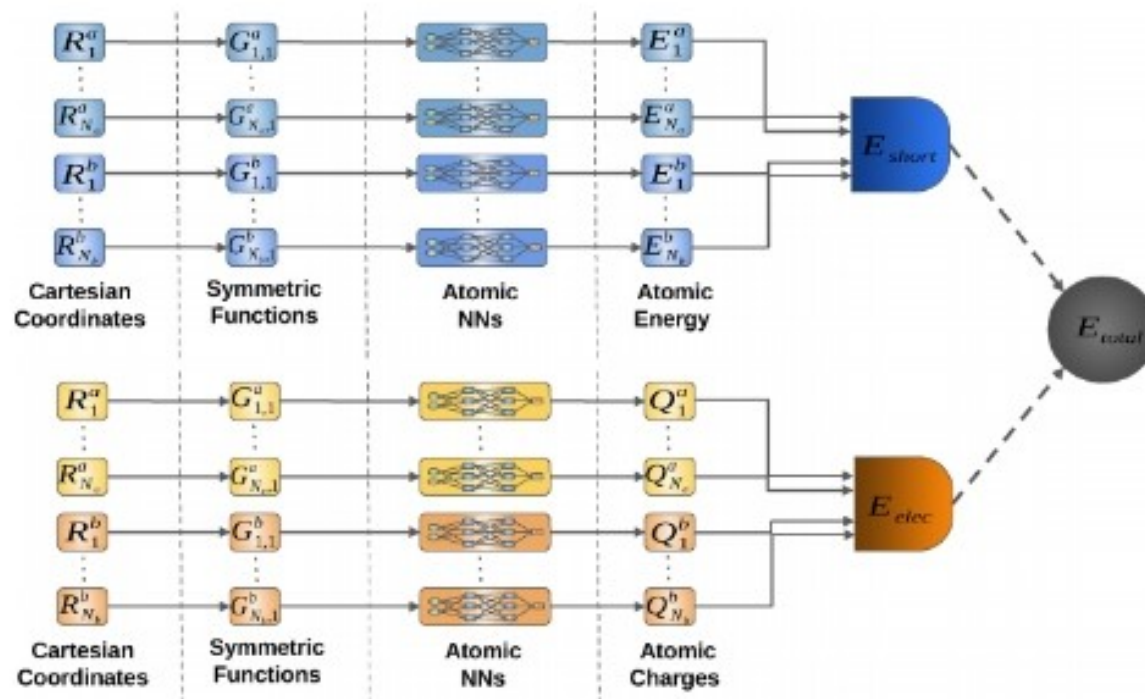
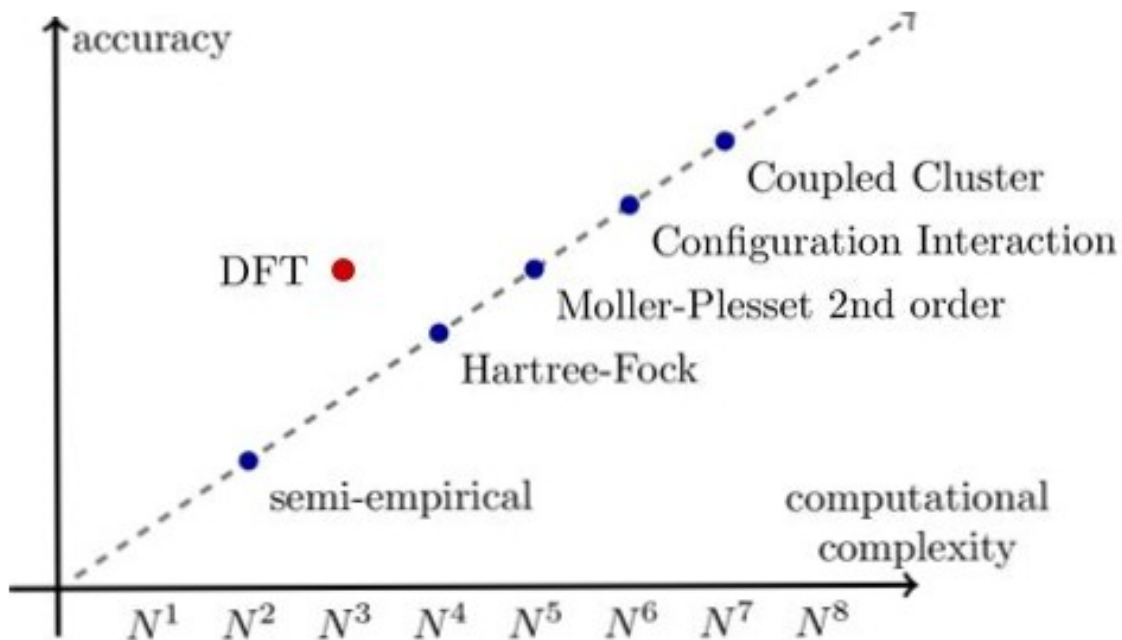
# Electronic structure approximation: Density Functional Theory

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i^{\text{occ}} |\psi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2. \quad \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r}),$$

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r}) = V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}' + V_{\text{XC}}[\rho](\mathbf{r}), \quad V_{\text{XC}}[\rho](\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\delta E_{\text{XC}}[\rho]}{\delta \rho(\mathbf{r})}.$$

$$E_{\text{KS}}[\rho] = T_s[\rho] + E_{\text{ext}}[\rho] + E_{\text{H}}[\rho] + E_{\text{XC}}[\rho],$$

# A step further from Classical and Ab Initio MD: ML Interatomic Potentials





# MLIP: MACE foundation models

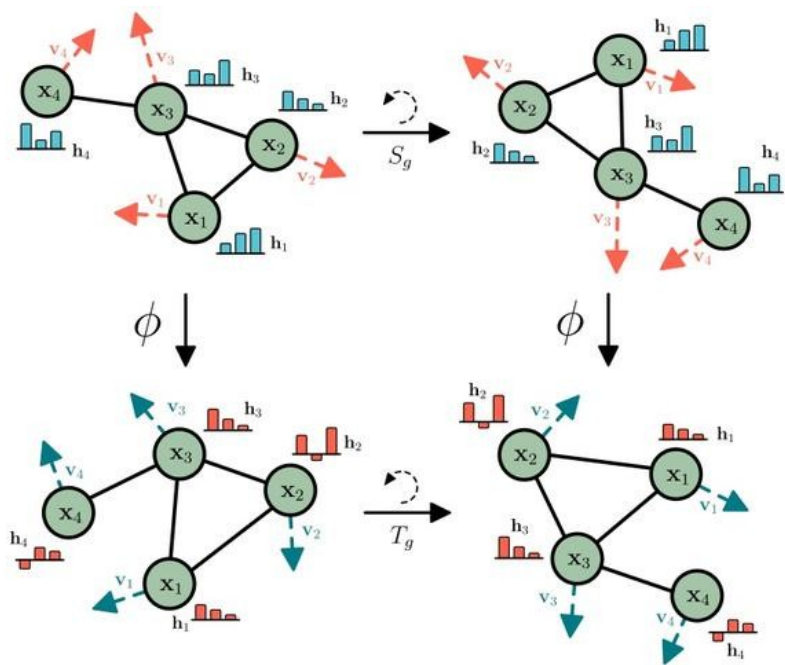
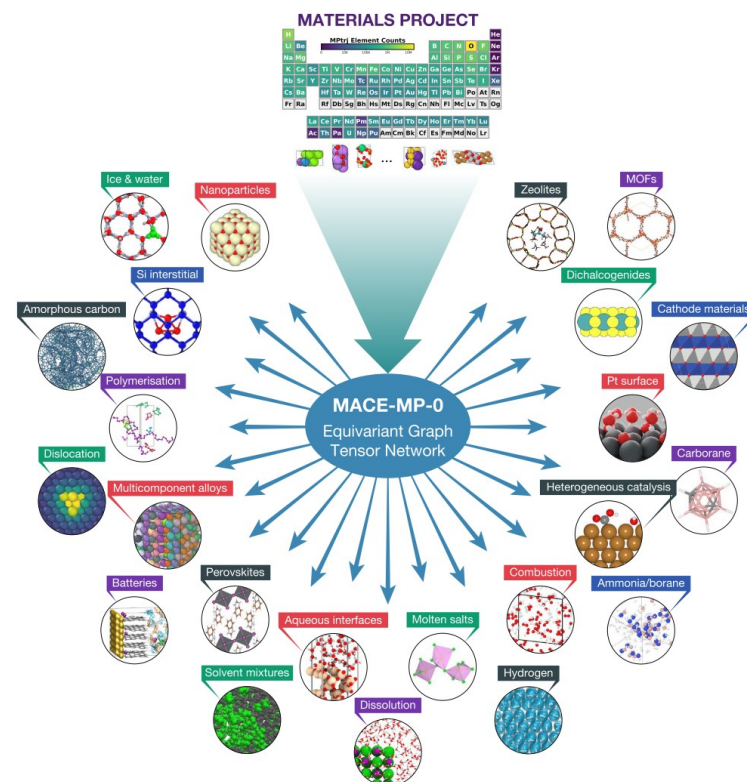


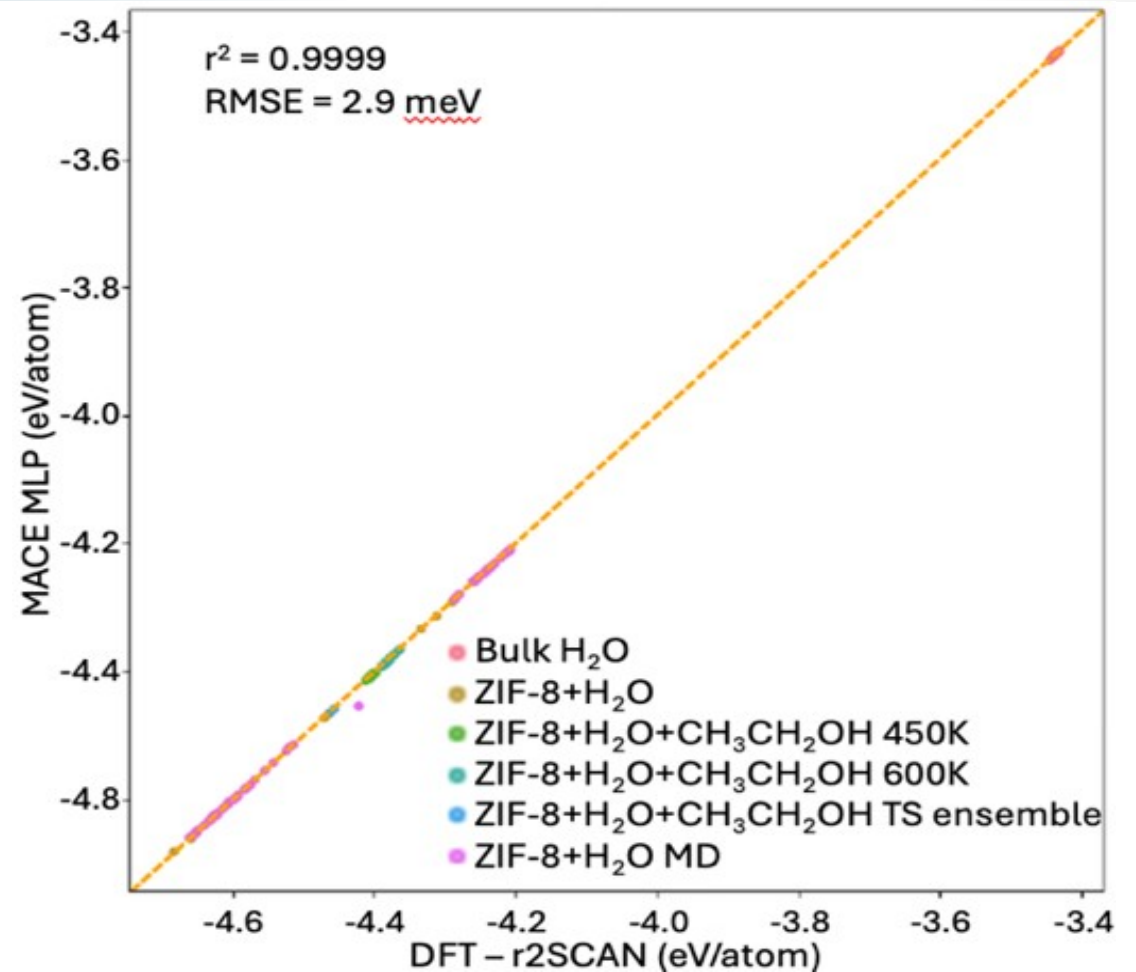
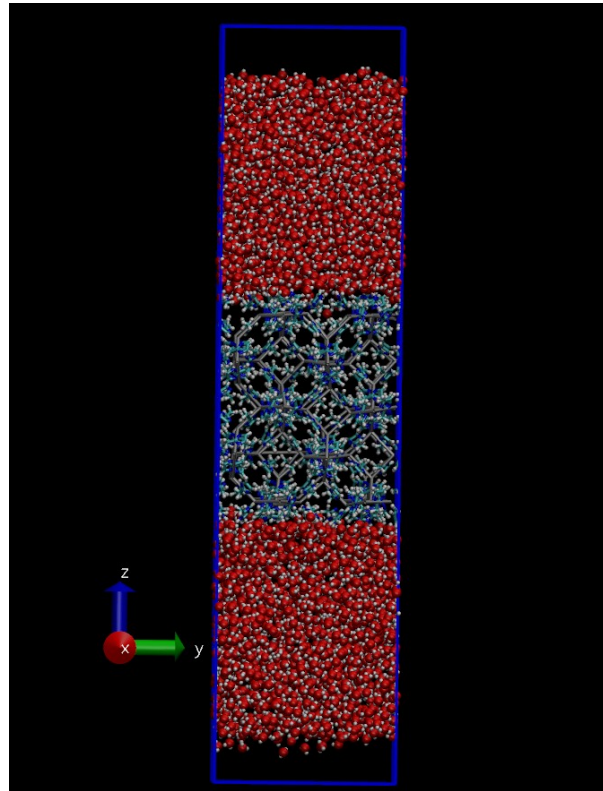
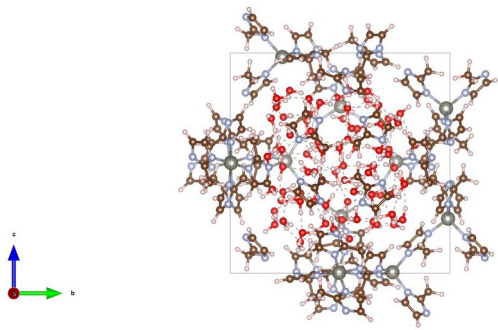
Figure 1. Example of rotation equivariance on a graph with a graph neural network  $\phi$

$$m_{ij;L,M}^{(t)} = \sum_{\ell_1, m_1} \sum_{\ell_2, m_2} C_{\ell_1 m_1, \ell_2 m_2}^{LM} \left[ h_{j; \ell_1, m_1}^{(t)} \right]^T \cdot \mathcal{W}_{\ell_1 \ell_2 L}^{(t)} \cdot Y_{\ell_2}^{m_2}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{ij}) \cdot F_{\ell_1 \ell_2 L}^{(t)}(r_{ij})$$



# Training of MLIP: generation of datasets

DFT-curated dataset to sample the relevant configurational space



# Training of MLIP: representing bulk water

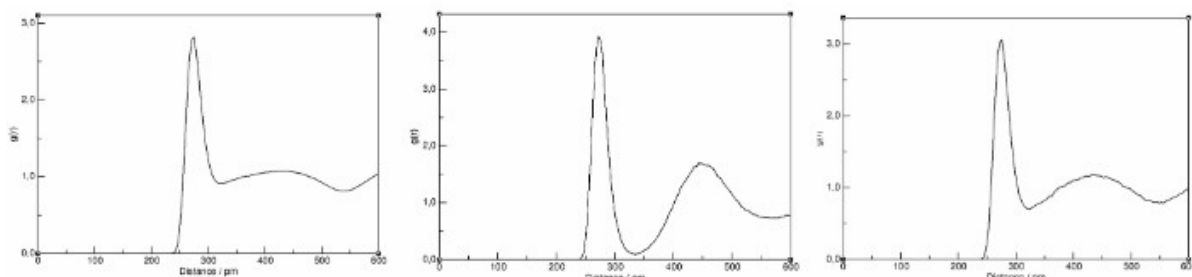
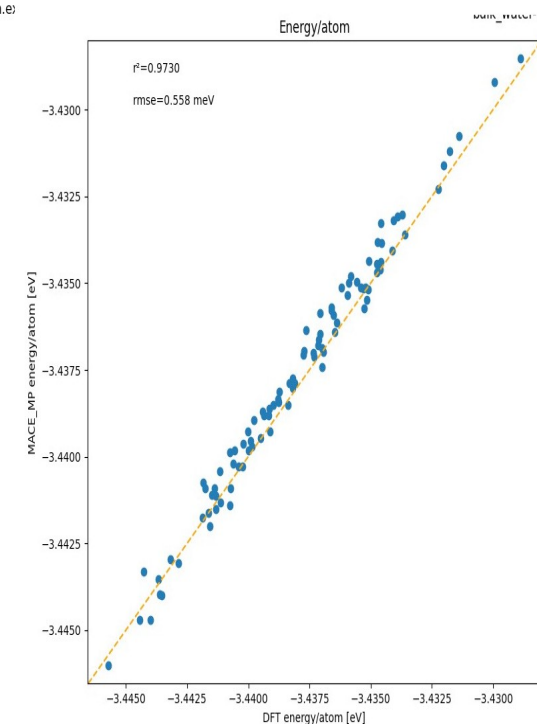
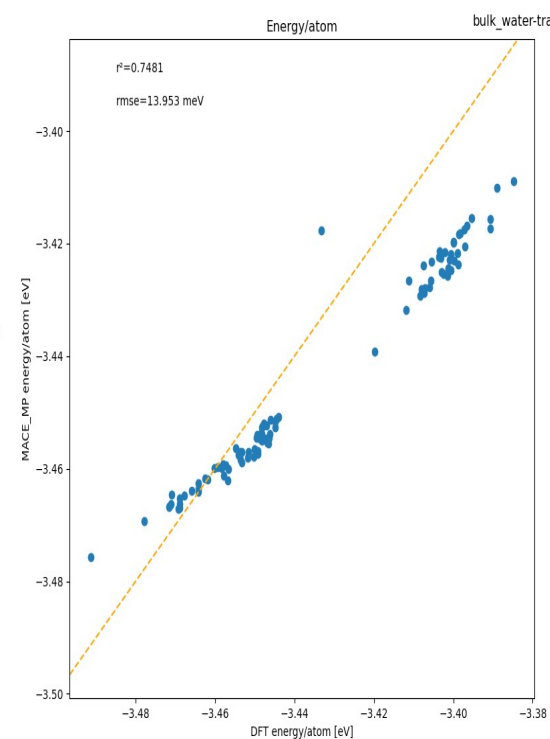
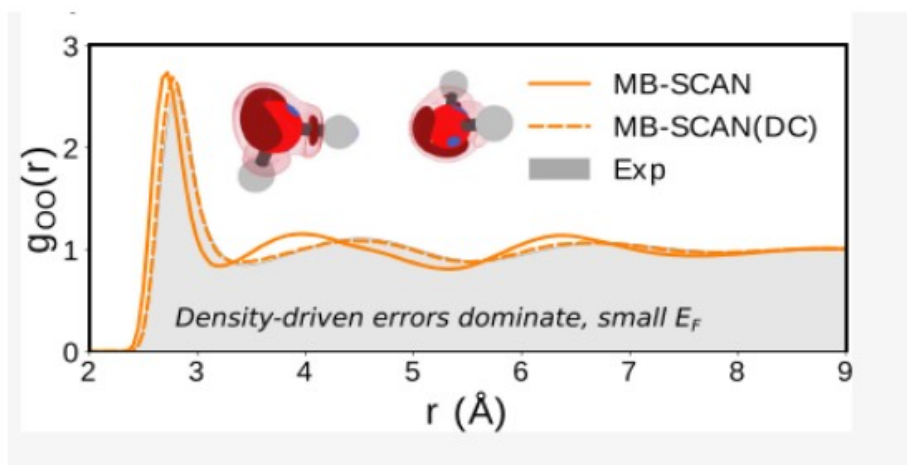
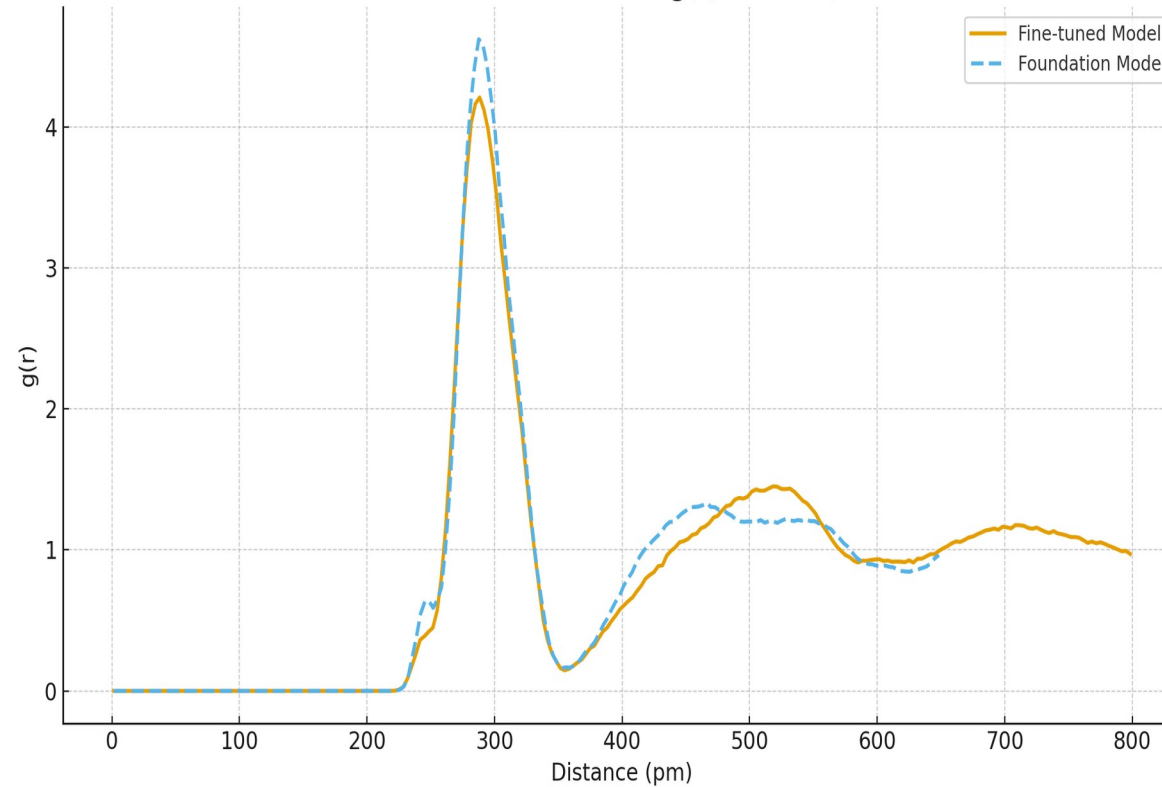


Figure 4.3:  $g(r)$  of O-O from foundation models: **left** MPA(PBE+U); **centre** MAT-PES(PBE); **right** MATPES(r2SCAN)

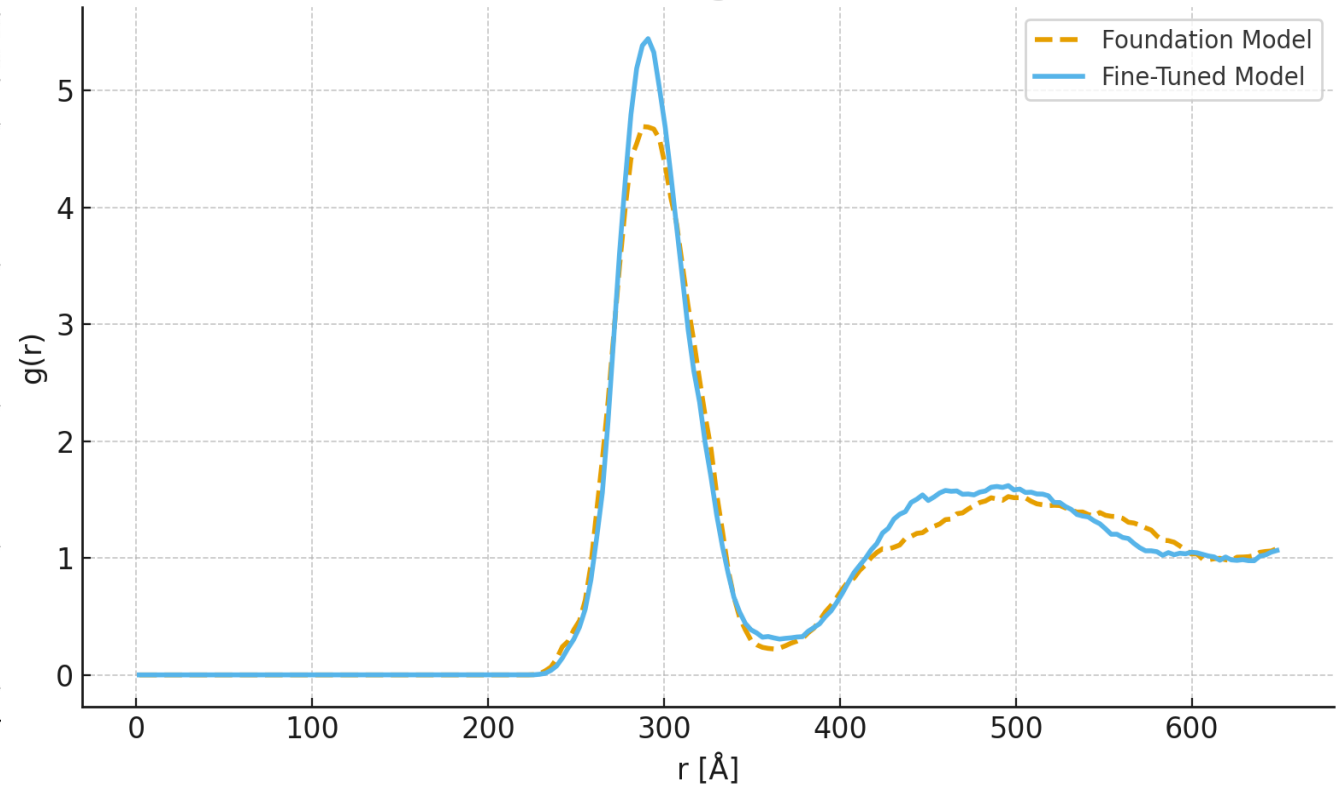


# Training of MLIP: representing confined water

Radial Distribution Function  $g(r)$  at 300K, 300 bar



Radial Distribution Function  $g(r)$  – ZIF-78, 300 K, 300 bar





# Conclusions

Foundation models need fine-tuning to represent water

Accuracy at AIMD level with CMD computational cost

More reliable quantitative analysis of confined water and free energy profile

Flexible potentials to capture physicochemical properties of confined water